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To whom it concerns,

It is the right of every consumer to know what foods are going into the products they buy. I already take the approach - 'If in doubt, leave it on the shelf'. I am buying less and less food through supermarkets. I totally avoid the meat and deli sections, and I buy fresh fruit and veg from a pop-up which is all locally grown and chemical free.

The majority of Australians don't want to eat genetically modified (GM) foods. All GM foods should be independently assessed for their health and environmental hazards and risks, be labelled as GM, and be traceable. This will allow farmers, food producers, retailers, and shoppers to avoid them, for many important reasons. Our farmers who grow organic and chemical free produce also have to be protected from contamination from nearby GM crops.

I strongly oppose these changes to the Food Code. They will undermine FSANZ's key responsibilities to ensure food safety and our right to know what is in our food.

Allowing agrochemical companies to self-assess is akin to putting a fox in the chook house and expecting it not to go against its true nature. I'm very concerned that FSANZ is willing to put its faith in this farcical self-assessment process.

I prefer my food to be created by natural means, not produced in a petri dish with a mix of genes which could never happen in nature.

These changes would make Australia one of very few countries in the world to allow genetically modified animal products into our food chain with no regulation or labelling. This would put Australia in a precarious position which could cause the loss of trade with our international trading partners. The FSANZ has already admitted it "may have a significant impact on trade". .

I fully support expanding the definition for 'gene technology' so FSANZ continues to assess and regulate all techniques and methods of genetic modification, other than conventional breeding. The proposal to deregulate new and emerging GM techniques and their food products is completely unacceptable.

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